

Message Text

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45

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 DPW-01 IO-13 NIC-01 ACDA-19 RSR-01

/102 W

----- 023658

O R 221030 Z JUN 73 ZFF-4

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 3570

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS IMMEDIATE

COMUSMACTHAI IMMEDIATE

CINCPAC

CDR USSAG NKP RTAF THAI

UNCLAS SAIGON 11252

E. O. 11652 NA

TAGS: PINS, MILI, VS, VN

SUBJECT: USAF HANOI LIAISON FLIGHT ABORTED

COMUSMACTHAI FOR PAO

1. PRIOR SCHEDULED SAIGON DEPARTURE OF USAF C-130 LIAISON FLIGHT TO HANOI 220030 Z, DRV PASSENGERS REFUSED TO SIGN SAFETY CERTIFICATION PREVIOUSLY AGREED UPON INFORMALLY IN BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF FPJMT. IN ACCORDANCE WITH DISCUSSION AT FPJMT JUNE 21, NO PRG PASSENGERS SHOWED.

2. CHUSDEL HELD AIRCRAFT ONE HOUR AWAITING COMPLIANCE BY DRV REPRESENTATIVE WITH SAFETY PROCEDURES. WITH EMBASSY APPROVAL, AND FOLLOWING CONTINUED REFUSAL BY DRV REPRESENTATIVE TO SIGN CERTIFICATION, FLIGHT WAS CANCELLED AND AIRCRAFT RETURNED TO THAILAND.

3. EMBASSY ISSUED FOLLOWING STATEMENT TO PRESS IMMEDIATELY THEREAFTER:
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BEGIN TEXT

THE WEEKLY LIAISON FLIGHT, WHICH CARRIES MEMBERS OF THE FOUR-PARTY JOINT MILITARY TEAM BETWEEN SAIGON AND HANOI, WAS CANCELLED THIS MORNING (JUNE 22) WHEN THE SENIOR NORTH VIETNAMESE DELEGATE FOR THE LIAISON MISSION, LTC HUYNH VAN TRINH, REFUSED TO SIGN A SAFETY CERTIFICATE GUARANTEEING THAT THE NORTH VIETNAMESE WERE NOT CARRYING ANY DANGEROUS CARGO, THE US EMBASSY ANNOUNCED TODAY.

THE US DELEGATION, WHICH PROVIDES A USAF C-130 AIRCRAFT FOR THE LIAISON FLIGHTS, HAD PREVIOUSLY INFORMED THE THREE OTHER FPJMT DELEGATIONS AND ICCS DELEGATIONS THAT SOMETIMES USE THE FLIGHT, THAT THE SAFETY CERTIFICATE WOULD BE REQUIRED TO PREVENT RECURRENCE

OF THE TYPE OF INCIDENT WHICH HAPPENED JUNE 8 WHEN AN INCENDIARY DEVICE, CONCEALED IN THE BAGGAGE OF A NORTH VIETNAMESE PASSENGER, CAUSED A FIRE ABOARD THE AIRCRAFT. SEVEN PERSONS ON THE PLANE WERE INJURED AND THE INTERIOR OF THE AIRCRAFT DAMAGED.

THE SAFETY CERTIFICATE, WHICH IS SIMILAR TO THOSE USED IN INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT PROCEDURES, CERTIFIES THAT THE BAGGAGE AND CARGO BE-

LONGING TO A PARTICULAR DELEGATION IS COMPLETELY FREE OF SUCH DANGEROUS MATERIAL AS EXPLOSIVE AND INCENDIARY DEVICES, FLAMMABLE LIQUIDS, AND COMPRESSED GASES WHICH COULD ENDANGER THE SAFETY OF THE AIRCRAFT, ITS PASSENGERS AND CREW. THE SENIOR DELEGATE OF THE POLISH DELEGATION TO THE ICCS, WHICH HAD PLANNED TO SEND TWO OFFICERS ON THE FLIGHT, HAD ALREADY SIGNED THE SAFETY CERTIFICATE WHEN LTC TRINH, WHO IS THE DEPUTY CHIEF OF THE DRV DELEGATION, REFUSED TO SIGN. COLONEL WILLIAM W. TOMBAUGH, THE CHIEF OF THE US DELEGATION, HAD ANNOUNCED AT FOUR-PARTY JOINT MILITARY TEAM MEETINGS IN SAIGON THAT THE US AIR FORCE COULD NOT CONTINUE TO PROVIDE AN AIRCRAFT FOR THE LIAISON FLIGHT UNLESS ALL PASSENGERS COMPLIED WITH STANDARD SAFETY PROCEDURES. END TEXT.

4. THE DRV PRESS OFFICER PHONED THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT TO WIRE SERVICES IN SAIGON AFTER THE EMBASSY STATEMENT HAD BEEN RELEASED, ALTHOUGH IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT THE DRV DELEGATION WAS AWARE AT THE TIME THAT AN EMBASSY STATEMENT HAD BEEN ISSUED:

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TO INSURE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 8 (B) OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT ON VIETNAM, OVER THE PAST TWO MONTHS THERE HAVE BEEN LIAISON FLIGHTS FROM SAIGON TO HANOI AND THE AIRCRAFT FOR THE FLIGHT IS PROVIDED BY THE US. OF LATE, THE US SIDE HAS DELIBERATELY CAUSED TROUBLE IN THE QUESTION OF MODALITIES FOR THE FLIGHT AND

MAKE IT AS A PRETEXT TO UNILATERALLY CANCEL TWO SAIGON- HANOI-
SAIGON REGULAR LIAISON FLIGHTS PLANNED FOR FRIDAY, JUNE 15 AND
FRIDAY, JUNE 22. THIS IS A LACK OF GOODWILL AND A BLATANT VIOLA-
TION OF THE SPIRIT OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT ON VIETNAM, AND A VIOLA-
TION OF ARTICLE 8 OF THE SIGNED COMMUNIQUE THAT THE US HAD JUST
SIGNED. THESE ACTS HAVE CAUSED OBSTACLES TO THE ACTIVITIES OF
THE FOUR- PARTY JOINT MILITARY TEAM IN IMPLEMENTATION OF
ARTICLE 8 (B) ON DEAD AND MISSING PERSONS.

THE DRV MILITARY DELEGATION TO THE FPJMT VEHEMENTLY PRO-
TESTS AGAINST THESE PERVERSE ACTS OF THE US AND DECLARES THAT
THE US MUST BE HELD FULLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CONSEQUENCES OF THIS
ACT. END TEXT.

WHITEHOUSE

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NNNNMAFVVZCZ

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TAGS: MILI, PINS
To: CDR USSAG NKP RTAF THAI
CINCPAC
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